

1-22-48
**Pioneer Resident of Groton
Passes Away at Pierpont**

^{Julson}
Mary Belden was born December 23, 1867, in Leseskovon, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway. At the age of eleven she immigrated with her parents to the United States, settling near Topeka, Kansas. A short time later the family moved to Madelia, Minn. In 1881 her father took up a homestead near Groton, S. D. A year later, Mary, age fifteen, accompanied only by her two brothers, Ole and Hans, age nine and eleven, came in a prairie schooner, driving their cattle from Madelia to their homestead.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1884, Mary Belden was united in marriage to Henry F. Johnson of Groton. They operated a hotel and machine business in Groton until the fire of 1890, which destroyed their property, as well as part of the city of Groton. They then moved to their homestead near James, S. D. Three sons, William, Henry and James, were born to them. In 1904 Mr. Johnson passed away. Mrs. Johnson and her sons moved to Pierpont, where she lived until her marriage to James Julson of Groton in 1918.

In 1923 her son, Henry, passed away. Eleven weeks later her son, James, was drowned in the Missouri river, while surveying for the state. In 1923 Mr. Julson passed away. Mrs. Julson has made her home with her son, William, since that time. Mrs. Julson has been in failing health for several years. She slept peacefully away January 14, 1948, at the age of eighty years and twenty-one days.

She was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters, besides her sons and husbands. Left to mourn her passing are: One brother, Oscar Belden; one son, William, of Pierpont; four grandchildren. Mrs. Jalmer Tastad of Pierpont. Howard Johnson of Lincoln, Neb., Mrs. Kenneth Schneider of Dell Rapids, S. D., and Norman Johnson of Pierpont; also seven great grandchildren.

Mrs. Julson was baptized in the church in Norway, confirmed in the Lutheran church at Madelia, Minn. She was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran church, the Ladies' Aid and the Legion Auxiliary. A pioneer mother has gone to her reward; blessed be her memory.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock, in the Bethlehem Lutheran church at Pierpont, with the Rev. L. S. Gjerde officiating. A mixed quartet, composed of Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Loe, Mrs. Laura Ask and Milton Ask sang "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "Near to The Heart of God" and "Rock of Ages." Interment was made in the Groton Union cemetery.

Nephews of Mrs. Julson acted as pall-bearers, namely, Oliver, Harold, George, Otis, Reinert and Frank Belden.

Relatives and friends attending from a distance were: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson of Lincoln, Neb.; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Schneider of Dell Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Von Wald and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heintzman and Lewis Mathson, all of Aberdeen; Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Waters and Mrs. Louise Gunn of Redfield, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Julson of Groton.